

1 Time-Limited Waiver for Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner  
2 Licensure  
3

4  
5 18 VAC 115-60-55. Time-limited waiver of certain licensure requirements.

6  
7 Until (insert date for one year following effective date of regulation) individuals who do not meet  
8 the licensure requirements set forth in 18 VAC 115-60-50, 18 VAC 115-60-60, 18 VAC 115-60-  
9 70, 18 VAC 115-60-80, and 18 VAC 115-60-90 may be eligible for licensure if they submit a  
10 completed application, processing fee, and provide evidence that they meet the following criteria:

- 11 1. A current Virginia board certification as a substance abuse counselor in good  
12 standing;
- 13 2. A passing score on a board-approved examination;
- 14 3. Comprehensive reports from a minimum of three licensed mental health  
15 professionals, of which one must be licensed in Virginia, that affirm competence in all  
16 areas outlined in 18 VAC 115-60-80C(1) and attest to the applicant's ability to  
17 practice autonomously; and
- 18 4. One of the following:
- 19 a. Five years full-time experience in substance abuse treatment plus a master's  
20 degree in a mental health field from a regionally accredited institution of  
21 higher learning with a total of 36 graduate hours covering mental health  
22 content to include three graduate semester hours or 4.5 graduate quarter  
23 hours in each area of the following:
- 24 1. Counseling and psychotherapy techniques;
- 25 2. Appraisal, evaluation and diagnostic procedures;
- 26 3. Abnormal behavior and psychopathology;
- 27 4. Group counseling and psychotherapy, theories and techniques; and
- 28 5. Research.

1 The remaining graduate semester hours shall include content in the following  
2 areas:

- 3 1. Assessment, appraisal, evaluation and diagnosis specific to  
4 substance abuse;
- 5 2. Treatment planning models, client case management, interventions  
6 and treatments to include relapse prevention, referral process, step  
7 models and documentation process;
- 8 3. Understanding addictions: The biochemical, socio-cultural and  
9 psychological factors of substance use and abuse;
- 10 4. Addictions and special populations, including, but not limited to,  
11 adolescents, women, ethnic groups and the elderly;
- 12 5. Client and community education; or

13 b. Ten years full-time experience in substance abuse treatment plus a  
14 bachelor's degree from a regionally- accredited institution of higher learning,  
15 plus 30 graduate hours covering mental health content to include three  
16 graduate semester hours or 4.5 graduate quarter hours in each area of the  
17 following:

- 18 1. Counseling and psychotherapy techniques;
- 19 2. Appraisal, evaluation and diagnostic procedures;
- 20 3. Abnormal behavior and psychopathology;
- 21 4. Group counseling and psychotherapy, theories and techniques; and
- 22 5. Research.

23 The remaining graduate hours; shall include content in the following areas:

- 24 1. Assessment, appraisal, evaluation and diagnosis specific to  
25 substance abuse;
- 26 2. Treatment planning models, client case management, interventions  
27 and treatments to include relapse prevention, referral process, step  
28 models and documentation process;

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

- 3. Understanding addictions: The biochemical, socio-cultural and psychological factors of substance use and abuse;
- 4. Addictions and special populations, including, but not limited to, adolescents, women, ethnic groups and the elderly;
- 5. Client and community education.